

TANEY COUNTY REPUBLICAN

VOL. 21. No. 12.

FORSYTH, MISSOURI, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1916.

Four Pages.

Breaking Faith With The People

If there has ever been any doubt as to President Wilson's attitude toward the one-term plank of the Baltimore platform, that doubt was dispelled by his acceptance of the Indiana ballot nominating him on the Democratic ticket for 1916, and resolved itself into a certainty with the publication recently of his letter of February 1913 to A. Mitchell Palmer.

"Our platform is not molasses to catch flies, it means business. It means what it says", were the words of Mr. Wilson spoken during his 1912 campaign. The Baltimore platform declared for a single presidential term and favored the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution making the President ineligible for re-election. The plank concluded: "and we pledge the candidate of this convention to this principle". On that platform Mr. Wilson accepted his nomination, and on it he was elected in November, 1912.

The Senate, on February 1, 1913, adopted a joint resolution to amend the Constitution so as to provide for a single presidential term. In all candor it may be stated that the resolution was not very popular with the Republicans who voted for it. It was intended so far as they were concerned to restrict if possible, the future activities of Mr. Roosevelt. But a great many of the Democratic Senators, relying on Mr. Wilson's sincerity, voted for the measure, and it then went over to the House for action. What Mr. Wilson had privately considered a joke was in a fair way to become a reality, so his chief spokesman in the House A. Mitchell Palmer, was called into conference, which resulted in a letter from President-elect Wilson to Mr. Palmer in which he said: "put the present customary limitation of two terms into the Constitution, . . . and give the President a chance to win the full service by proving himself fit for it". This letter was laid before the committee on the judiciary, which had the resolution in charge, and the resolution immediately became a matter for reference to the committee on the disposition of useless papers.

Thus it transpires that one month before he took the oath of office as President of the United States, Mr. Wilson had broken faith with the people who relied on the platform promises and was a party to the violation of the one-term plank. He stood before the great American tribunal on March 4, 1913, and took his inaugural oath with unclean hands. With such a beginning, by setting such an example to his followers, what is there surprising in the fact that every last plank in the Baltimore platform has since been smashed into smithereens? It was but the natural outcome of an Administration which had its birth in duplicity, and which will die "unwept, unhonored and unsung".

New Low Record For Import Duties

For Christmas your Uncle Samuel received from Mr. Underwood's near-free-trade tariff law customs revenues in the sum of \$2,685,866. This was on imports to the value of \$30,799,642, or average rate of duty for that week of 8.7 per cent. These are on imports entered at the thirteen principal customs districts of the United States. His New Year's gift for the week ended January 1, 1916 was \$2,825,002 of customs revenues on \$37,881,835 worth of imports, or an average rate of duty for the week of 7.46 per cent, the lowest weekly average rate of duty in our trade history. For the week ended January 8, 1916 there entered these same thirteen customs districts imports to the value of \$58,649,052 on which customs revenue was collected to the sum of \$3,406,356 or an average rate of duty for the week of 8.8 per cent. This marked a new high record on weekly imports.

The statement of Democrats that imports have materially decreased is false. Temporarily curtailed at the outbreak of the war, these are now

coming in as never before, but they are imports on the free list, which would have paid goodly revenues had they been subjected to Republican rates of duty. If they can not get adequate revenues at the ports of the country to help run the Government, the deficit must be made up by levying direct internal taxes. Think of this when the fiscal policy of the present Administration stings you, and consider whether you prefer the protective tariff of the Republicans—which does not increase the cost of living, which does encourage industry, benefit labor, and pay the revenues of the government—or the Democratic policy of near-free-trade, which does nothing for this country but subject the people to a swarm of vexatious "horsefly" taxes.

Director Rogers of the Census Bureau has informed Representative Heflin of Alabama that he will co-operate with him on his bill to require the Census Bureau to gather and publish additional statistics of cotton consumed. What in the world have those 749 special agents to gather cotton statistics been doing all this time? Simply cumbering the payroll? It required a force of about 740 to gather the manufacturing statistics of the recent census all over the country. The cotton job must be a pretty soft one.

"The adverse effect of the conflict in Europe" is the expression used by one economic writer in reviewing the past year. "Adverse", indeed! "Beneficial" you should say. At the time the war broke out the monthly balance of trade was against us and had been against us for four months. It took only 30 days to get war orders enough to turn the balance in our favor and since then we have enjoyed the largest balance in our history. How any man of both intelligence and integrity can call the effect of the war "adverse" is beyond comprehension.

Senator Chamberlain, Democratic chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, says that in dealing with smaller nations we have acted like a great bully but when we deal with great nations we act like cowards. He evidently had in mind the present administration, for he surely has not forgotten how Grover Cleveland dealt with Great Britain in Venezuela affair.

U. S. Senator Lewis, Democrat, of Indiana, has introduced a resolution suggesting that the Federal Reserve Board increase the compensation of its employees consistent with the service done and "the increased cost of living expenses". When a Democrat, elected on a pledge of both economy and reduced cost of living asks for an increase of salaries on the ground that cost of living has increased, there is not much need for Republicans to hunt for political arguments.

Despite the fact that the exchange rates show a heavy depreciation in the value of the German mark and the Austrian crown, Secretary McAdoo and Director of the Mint Wooley, whose function it is under the law to proclaim foreign values every quarter, refuse to take official notice of these falling values. It is a matter of common knowledge that the coins referred to have depreciated in value, but Secretary McAdoo denies that any depreciation exists. The reason is simple, The Treasury is in a horrible state, and Secretary McAdoo is engaging in every trickery known to a politician to raise the greatest amount of revenue possible, regardless of fair play. Importers of German and Austrian goods have repeatedly called attention of the Treasury Department to the depreciated condition of the Central Powers, as evidenced by the decline in the exchange rates, but they are still subjected to the hardships accompanying the liquidation of duties based on the normal exchange values. Having inflated the treasury balance, Mr. McAdoo finds it an easy matter to inflate exchange rates.

David Smithson Dead.



David Smithson, one of the old settlers of this part of the country, died at the home of his son, John, on Swan creek, about three miles from Forsyth, on Monday morning, January 31, at the age of ninety-one years.

David Smithson was born in what was then Warren county, Tennessee, on the 28th day of May, 1825, where he lived during his boyhood. He was a veteran of the Mexican war, having enlisted in Co. F, 3rd Regiment, U. S. Volunteer Infantry, serving all through the campaign including the taking of Mexico City, and returned to his native state after the war.

He removed with his family to Taney county, Missouri, in 1876, settling on what is now known as the Licklider farm, up on Swan creek, and a few years later moved on down the creek and located at the farm where he died, the place for the past several years having belonged to his son, John.

Mr. Smithson was married September 16, 1849, and has raised eight children, six of whom are still living. They are John, Mrs. J. H. Parrish and Mrs. E. R. Everett of Forsyth, Mrs. Ben Stone of near Forsyth, W. C. Smithson of Keokuk Falls, Oklahoma, and Mrs. Zane Reynolds of Nebraska. His wife preceded him to the Great Beyond in July, 1890. All the six living children were at his bedside when the end came.

In 1878 Mr. Smithson suffered a sun stroke, since which time he has been afflicted with palsy, but managed to keep pretty active until along last summer, when he seemed to break down and has been steadily declining until Monday morning when he was relieved of his suffering.

Funeral services were held at the late home on Tuesday afternoon and burial was made in the Ragsdale cemetery. The members of the family have the sympathy of the entire community in their bereavement.

A Hollow Plea.

As a matter of fact, however, there is no prosperity in evidence aside from that unstable prosperity that has its rise solely in the great war. The heavy demand for foodstuffs, horses, motor trucks, munitions, and so on has caused our export trade to mount to extraordinary proportions and the exodus of foreign reservists together with the reduction of immigration, have operated to eliminate the condition of unemployment that otherwise would be flagrant. When the World asks us to believe that the people are going to accept that kind of prosperity as wholly satisfactory and to ascribe the credit to the Democratic party, it pays a poor tribute to the people's intelligence.

We grant that prosperity is, and should be, if it is actual and genuine prosperity, an aid to the party in power but prosperity—even of the most substantial sort—is far from affording complete assurance against political reaction. And when prosperity is of the limited and superficial order now in evidence, and is attended with a rising scale of prices in flat defiance of promises to obtain lower prices, it comes near being an empty asset for the dominant party. Moreover, the trouble with our present tariff law is not confined to its failure to bring prosperity and to reduce the cost of living. It has proved woefully deficient

from the standpoint of revenue, and even the subterfuge of a "war tax" has failed to repair the treasury deficit which is steadily growing largely.

We do not think voters will be so easily deceived as the World imagines by representations that a Democratic administration has brought a regime of prosperity. Let us have a bill of particulars. When that is forthcoming it will require no deep analysis to disclose the hollowness of such a plea.—Springfield Union.

The Federal Farm Loan Act.

House and Senate banking and currency committees are prompt with their report of a rural credits bill prepared by a joint sub-committee, and probably this one will have right of way over any measure so far introduced, or in the making. If the ultimate enactment is practically in the form of the report it will be known as the Federal Farm Loan Act.

With a bill actually on the floor, Congress and the country now have something substantial to talk about in the matter of rural credits legislation. Whatever merits or defects this measure possesses will be aired all in good time. But, in one respect it may be viewed with instant apprehension—it sets up a new commission. The federal farm loan board is to be composed of five members, appointed for ten year terms with salaries of twelve thousand dollars—sixty thousand dollars to begin with.

A train of sub-officials is provided, of course, for the new Government bureau which is to specialize in agricultural banking. Is the problem of obtaining banking accommodation for farmers really such a difficult one that it cannot be solved without the creation of another Government commission.—Providence Journal.

"Without Regard"

The call for the Republican national convention has been issued. It invites persons who believe in Republican principles to participate in selecting delegates "without regard to past affiliations." Thus is set the stamp of the party's highest official approval on the program of bringing back into line the elements that in 1912 withdrew in protest against the party crime of Chicago. There was more than political need for such a sane endeavor. The country faces new issues, new conditions, new problems. It is vitally important that the result of an election this year shall not be determined by an unnatural division of the people giving a minority the power to make a policy for the country. If ever there was a time when a line-up and an honest verdict were needed, it is this year. The conditions that rent the Republican party are of the past. New ones have developed that make it vital that the Republican party present its real strength.—Washington Times (Prog.)

The Democrats' Hair Shirt.

P. H. Hall, Nebraska member of the Democratic national committee, has gazed into the crystal and predicts that William Jennings Bryan will be at the St. Louis convention and raise a considerable disturbance. Shouldn't wonder if Mr. Hall were right. On a hasty survey one does not recall a Democratic national convention at which Mr. Bryan did not raise a considerable disturbance. Mr. Bryan is the Democratic party's hair shirt. Every four years it has to put him on and wear him for its sins.—Kansas City Star.

Wilson Meets the Mules.

"You fool mule," said Uncle Eb, when his balky beast blocked the road to President and Mrs. Wilson the other day near Hot Springs, Va., "that was the first man and first missus ob de lan' an' bofe born in Ole Virginia, an' you stardin' stubborn like in de road. I never saw such an unsensible mule. G'wan now." It wasn't the first mule either, that the President of the United States has encountered since he began leading the Democratic party.—Springfield Republican

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